

# UNCLASSIFIED TELEGRAM

DD248

11/10/77

CONTROL: 8460  
101408Z NOV 77

AGF  
F.L.E. SOL 14

INDICATE  
☐ COLLECT  
☐ CHARGE TO

DECONTROL

E.O. 11652:  
TAGS:  
SUBJECT:

ACTION:

INFO:

FROM

USIS BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

N/A  
AR, SOPN, SHUM  
GOA CONFISCATES NEWSPAPER EDITION

SECSTATE WASHDC

USIA

BUENOS AIRES 8460

REF.: BUENOS AIRES 7608

1.- All copies of the November 7 issue of the weekly newspaper Correo de la Semana (Circ. 5,000) were confiscated by executive order. The GOA said an analysis of the latest edition "makes clear the evident purpose of showing to the reading public a situation of chaos, uncertainty and incoherence in the face of facts which, even if they are real and true, are distorted by the publication." Another reason given for the action was "the harm done to the image of the Nation as such and the principle of authority,"

2.- Correo de la Semana is owned and operated by Francisco Manrique, a well-known Argentine journalist with a reputation for integrity and straight talk. His 'exposé'

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S20000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/PS  
Margaret P. Griefeld, Director  
Exemption(s):  
Classify as ( ) in Part ( ) in Full  
( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to  
Date Declassify on Reason

AmB  
CHARGE  
POL-3  
POL/R  
ECOM  
USIS  
RF  
CHRON

DRAFTED BY:

USIS:MO/Allen:ldc

CLEARANCES:

DRAFTING DATE

11-10-77

TEL. EXT.

336

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

A/POLCOUNS:ACFreeman

USIS: JHiggins

UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION

80F178  
22/185

OPTIONAL FORM 153  
(Formerly FS-413)  
January 1975  
Dept. of State

50153-101

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MRN

of Cabinet Ministers in the Illia government caused the downfall of several of them. An ex-Navy Captain, he is an ~~ardent~~ ardent anti-communist with an equal dislike for extreme right wing nationalism.

3.- A government media official who saw the offending issue said the front page was a collage of local newspaper headlines about the recent strikes encircling a quotation from interior minister Harguindeguy saying "strikes are prohibited." The official added personally he would not have confiscated the issue "because it will only call attention to a publication that few read anyway and exaggerate its importance."

4.- The Buenos Aires Herald echoed the same sentiments in an editorial November 10. The paper concluded that: "Closing down Correo de la Semana for a while has done far more damage to Argentina's image than anything ever printed in it, while the knowledge that the government is unable to stand even mild and friendly criticism from a magazine that has consistently shown a constructive approach to the country's problems is scarcely likely to enhance the ~~principle~~ principle of authority."

5.- Comment: Once again (see reftel) the government's action seems hasty and ill-considered. The labor crisis was substantially ~~over~~ over when Correo de la Semana appeared and

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the confiscation served no useful purpose other than to  
focus public attention on the newspaper and the government's  
continued efforts to intimidate the media.

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